

honorable tradition. Like his great-grandfather, he has a proud history of maintaining the traditional ways of his peoples, and fights tirelessly to improve living standards on the reservation. In 1870, Chief Red Cloud's great-grandfather spoke in New York City, saying, "We do not want riches, we do not ask for riches, but we want our children properly trained and brought up." Chief Red Cloud continues to carry out that call, preserving the Lakota way of life, so that young children will have the opportunity to embrace their language and culture.

As many of you know, he gives unselfishly of himself to help those in need. He is generous with his knowledge—offering guidance to those who seek it. I know this, because even as I visited him in the hospital to offer him my support, he was offering me his wisdom.

Chief Red Cloud offers guidance to those who seek it, and I am thankful to be a recipient of his wisdom. Because of his wisdom and his passion, Chief Red Cloud has been able to bridge differences, find creative solutions to problems facing the Great Sioux Nation, and make sure the voices of his people are heard. In so doing, he has earned the respect of Indian nations and strengthened this Nation's independence and sovereignty.

As Makhpiya-Luta once said, "All I want is right and just."

We have challenging times ahead of us, breaking down barriers that have existed for far too long; but by working together we can build a society where each individual and community becomes whole.

That, too, is what is right and just.

Please join me in honoring Chief Red Cloud for his leadership, counsel and guidance. I know we will continue our dialogue, and I look forward to working with all of you.

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL TOMMY L. PARKER

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to an authentic American hero who gave his life in the defense of his Nation. Cpl Tommy L. Parker, Jr., 21, of Heber Springs was one of four marines killed June 21 in Ramadi, Iraq. He was serving with a sniper platoon of the First Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, CA.

Tommy was a 2001 graduate of Triple S Christian Academy. The Rev. John Bishop, who taught Tommy, praised his devotion to his faith, saying that even when surrounded by tough marines he was not too shy to give witness to his beliefs. As Tommy prepared to leave for Iraq, Bishop said Parker's wife told him, he remarked that the experience was bringing him closer to God.

Tommy is survived by his wife, Carla Parker; his daughter, Lara; and his parents, Tommy and Renatta.

Tommy's sacrifice is a shining example of the commitment that is necessary to keep this Nation free. When his Nation called, he answered. Our prayers and gratitude go out to his family for the great service that Tommy rendered to our Nation.

STAFF SERGEANT DUSTIN W. PETERS

Mr. President, today I also wish to pay tribute to a brave Arkansan who gave his life for the cause of freedom. Air Force SSgt Dustin W. Peters was killed July 11 when his convoy was hit

by homemade bombs about 150 miles north of Baghdad.

Dustin was born August 22, 1978, in Texarkana, TX. He attended high school in El Dorado, KS, and in Shirley, AR, before going into the Air Force in 1997. Dustin received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart posthumously. The Bronze Star Medal is given to individuals who distinguish themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement or meritorious service while serving in a combat theater, according to base officials. Dustin received his for heroism.

Dustin is survived by his son, Dalton, of El Dorado, KS; his mother, Linda Benning, of Shirley, AR; and his father, Dennis, of Enid, OK.

His fellow airmen said of Dustin that "you could count on . . . his service to our country and others always came ahead of his own needs and desires. His loss has touched us deeply, and we will miss him." Not only will his fellow airmen miss him but a grateful Nation will miss him. His sacrifice will never be forgotten.

PRIVATE VAN RYAN MARCUM

Mr. President, today I also wish to pay tribute to a brave young Arkansan who lost his life training to become a member of the United States Army. PVT Van Ryan Marcum, 21, a native of Prescott, AR, was electrocuted June 19 during an infantry basic training exercise when he touched a metal structure electrically charged by a faulty light fixture.

Van Ryan Marcum was memorialized at Fort Benning, GA. Joining the 220 soldiers from Charlie Company, with whom Marcum served, were his mother, grandmother, uncle and other family members invited to witness the tribute to the young man so interested in becoming an Army Ranger. As the ceremony unfolded, some soldiers grieved silently with bowed heads; others could not suppress quiet sniffles as the music played and the tributes were delivered.

CPT Kevin Salge, commander of Charlie Company, was quoted as saying that it was an honor to count among his unit's soldiers a trooper such as Marcum, who had a bright future in the military. "As soon as he completed a task he was ready for another. He carried his weight and more," Salge said. "He would have been a great addition to the Army."

Van's desire to defend his Nation is a tribute to his courage and dedication. We honor the sacrifice he made in the service of his country.

## SPECIALIST DONALD R. McCUNE II

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in South Bend, IN. SP Donald R. McCune II, 20 years old, died on August 5 in a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany from injuries sustained after an explosive device detonated near his patrol vehicle in

Balad, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Donald chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Donald spent his early childhood through part of high school in South Bend before moving to Michigan. He joined the Army National Guard shortly thereafter, following a long family tradition of military service. According to family and friends, enlisting was something he felt he needed to do. Donald was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, Army National Guard, Moses Lake, WA. Previously, he served with an Army Reserve unit based in Fraser for almost 2 years. This past spring, Donald was deployed to Iraq, where he bravely fought for 3 months before sacrificing his life for the worthy cause of freedom. Rick Monier, Donald's grandfather told the Detroit Free Press, "It was sad he had to pass away—he or any other soldier—but it was for freedom, and he believed in the cause."

Donald was the thirty-first Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Darcy Lewis; his stepfather Benjamin Lewis; his father, Donald McCune; his sister, Casandra Karczewski; his brother, Josh McCune; his grandmother, Gladys Gilbert; his grandfather, Rick Monier; his step-grandmother, Dianne Ronier; and his maternal great-grandmother, Beth Gilbert.

Today, I join Donald's family, his friends and all Americans in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this tremendous loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Donald, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Donald was known for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. When looking back on the life of her late son and his plans for the future, Darcy told the Detroit Free Press, "He knew the risks of fighting and had even talked about returning to Iraq after his stint was over and doing security work." Today and always, Donald will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Donald's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am